



# TRIBUTE

MARCH, 2017

FREE PUBLICATION

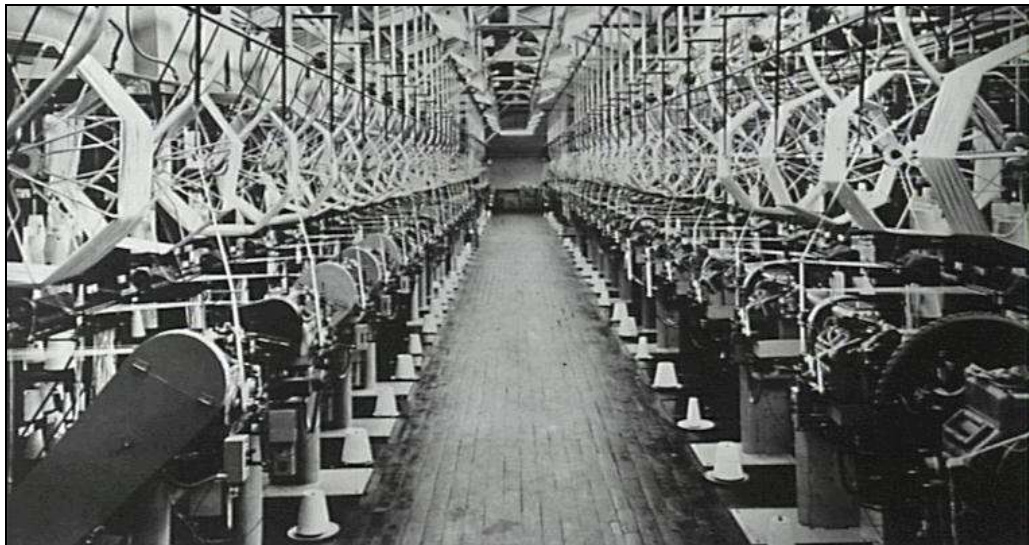
## St Marys & District Historical Society Inc. - Quarterly Newsletter

PO Box 64, ST MARYS NSW 1790 – Street Address - St Marys Corner,  
Mamre Rd, St Marys – Parking via 29 Swanston Street.



*Celebrating 20 Years*

*Mid January* saw several members get together for a working bee at the Chambers to hang a number of photographs for the St Marys time-line display, also two large paintings and a panorama of Cuckson's factory. It was a great effort by all! - *Panorama now on display.*



**W.E. Cuckson & Son.** - Eric Cuckson opened a zipper factory in the St Mary's Industrial Estate before moving to the new factory on Forrester Rd. Cuckson's were the makers of Rondo Zippers as well as the machinery to manufacture the components. The output of this machine was so outstanding that overseas companies placed orders resulting in the company winning Australian Government Export Awards. The factory management, under the guidance of Mr. Cuckson, became well known for the benevolent treatment of its employees and concern for presenting a pleasant and happy work environment.

*Working Bee –  
Members Eric Kent & Paul Mills*

*Photo – Caroline Volkiene*



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENTS

### 2017 Australia Day Celebrations

Our members enjoyed participating in the Australia Day festivities this year at Penrith. This was the first year Australia Day was held at Jamison Park and focussed on providing a family friendly celebration. The event was a huge success and was estimated a crowd of 5000 people attended.



Members Margaret & Paul Mills and  
Tom & Norma Thorburn



Our Secretary Marie Koen



Members Margaret Mills and Norma Thorburn hard at work answering the many enquiries we had on the day. Photos – Caroline Volkiene



### 11<sup>th</sup> National Servicemen's Commemoration 2017

It was a very hot summer's day on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February when our President, Caroline Volkiene and members Norma and Tom Thorburn attended the 11<sup>th</sup> National Servicemen's Memorial and Tribute Laying Ceremony. Despite the hot weather it did not deter those who usually attend this moving service.

## Rotary Club of St Marys Community Service Recognition Awards

On the 28<sup>th</sup> February the St Marys Rotary Club presented awards to several community groups in recognition of their commitment to serving others and the St Marys Community.

Our President, Caroline Volkiene, was honoured to accept this award on behalf of the Society's members.



Recipients: Back Row: Community Junction, Life Education, Bunnings Blacktown, Tony Fryer, Tony Briffa, 1<sup>st</sup> St Marys Scout Group

Front Row: St Marys Historical Society, Major Nellie Moed, Fusion, Storage King Blacktown.

Photo – Rotary Club of St Marys



The Society's members 2016 Christmas Luncheon

Photo – Kerry Walker

## Did You Know?

*Referenced: Ian Walker,  
The Daily Telegraph  
November 12, 2014*

DESCENDENTS of the man who put the “Badgery” in Badgerys Creek have added their voices to the debate over what to call Sydney’s second airport — and they’re keen to keep it in the family.

The Badgerys, on whose land the airport will be built, want the facility to keep the name of their ancestor, Andrew Delfosse Badgery, a pioneering aviator.

Badgery was the first man to fly an Australian-made plane, which he built himself on the family farm at Badgerys Creek a century before it was earmarked for an airport. Andrew Delfosse (Del) Badgery was the first to build a plane in Australia with his Caulder bi-plane.

He also chose the site for the Richmond RAAF base and was the first person to fly a plane from there. He was also the first person to fly a plane in Tasmania.

His granddaughter Janet Badgery, who is writing a book on his achievements, said naming Sydney’s new airport after him was a no-brainer: “He was the first man to fly an Australian-built plane. He built it himself on his sister’s veranda in Badgerys Creek and that’s his grand accolade,” she said.

Delfosse was an original aviator in Australia, similar to Charles Kingsford Smith, who Sydney Airport was named after.”

Delfosse’s great grandfather James Badgery settled the area as a successful farmer in 1799, just 11 years after Australia was colonised.

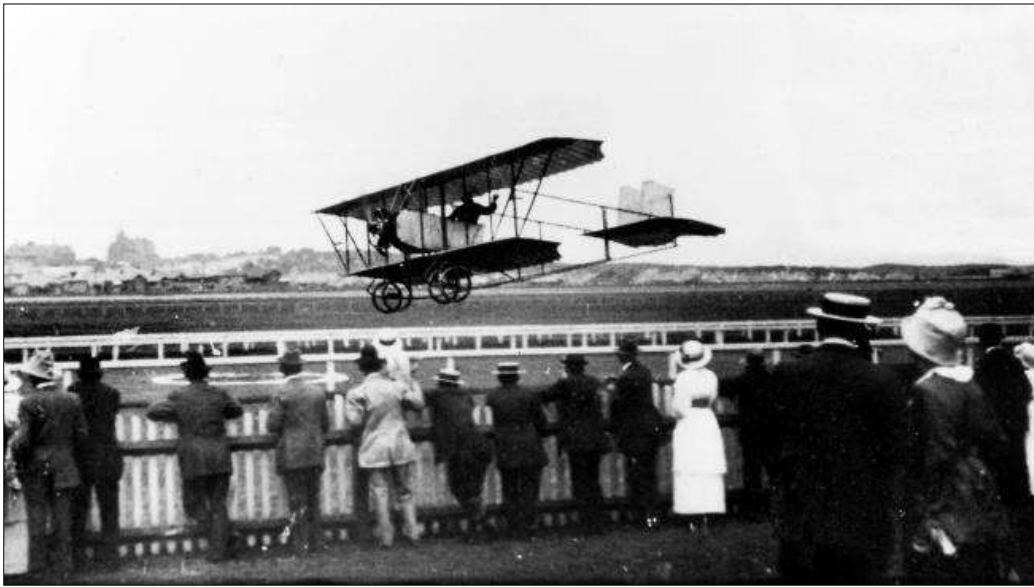
Del, as he was known, was born in an era when motor cars and planes were being invented. The sky was the limit.

Intrigued by planes, when he was 25 he gave up a career as a parliamentary clerk to move to England at his own expense and become a pilot and plane engineer. Three years later he returned to Australia as an aviator and built the Cauldron plane at Badgerys Creek.

“July 18, 1914, was one of the most significant days in Australian aviation. It was the first flight of the first Australian-built aircraft,” Mrs Badgery said.

Ten days later World War I began and Badgerys flying skills were put to the ultimate test. “He enlisted as lieutenant and flew and dropped bombs over Egypt. When he came back to Australia he trained pilots. Because he had the mechanical knowledge of these early planes he also taught mechanics and oversaw the building of planes.”





Del Badgery lands his Caudron bi-plane at Randwick Racecourse. Picture: Liverpool City Library



The St Marys & District Historical Society meets every 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month at 1 pm – at the St Marys Precinct “Chambers” – Mamre Road, St Marys.

**No meetings in January or December.**  
**ALL WELCOME**

Patron of our Society is Jackie Greenow, OAM.

Back issues of the “Tribute” can be found on our website at  
[www.stmaryshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.stmaryshistoricalsociety.org)

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Please contact: us on 0450132181 & leave a message



**(While care is taken to ensure that all articles are accurate, the opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society) Any comments on this Newsletter are encouraged.**

**PLEASE, DON'T THROW OUT AUSTRALIAN HISTORY. OLD PHOTOGRAPHS, BOOKS, LETTERS, RECEIPTS, DOCKETS, NEWSPAPERS & MAGAZINES. IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING YOU ARE NOT SURE ABOUT PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*‘Recording & Preserving the Heritage  
of St Marys’*